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PRESS RELEASE

Veles is Third Municipality to Join USAID Energy Efficiency Project

Skopje – The classroom will soon be a more comfortable place for the 1,642 students who attend Kole Nedelkovski High School and Jordan Hadzi-Konstantinov Dzinot Primary school in the Municipality of Veles. At the same time, the Municipality is expected to save more than \$11,000 annually on the energy costs for the two schools.

These benefits will result from a practical energy-saving project to be implemented in the Municipality of Veles, with the support of the American people, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.

The energy savings will result from renovating the high school's heating system, using energy-efficient technologies that improve boiler performance and reduce heat loss. Meanwhile, the primary school will receive an investment in ceiling insulation that will provide a low-cost, high-impact way to achieve energy savings.

This effort is part of the Municipal Good Governance Fund (MGGF) of USAID's Decentralization Project, which aims to support Macedonian municipalities as they grapple with the realities of decentralization.

"I hope that the experience gained in this project will be shared around the country. Greater public awareness of energy efficiency is needed, especially the possibilities for different approaches to energy savings. These investments that are paying off and providing significant savings for municipal budgets," says Ace Kocevski, Mayor of Veles Municipality.

Veles is the third municipality working with USAID to provide heating and lighting solutions for local schools that will result in savings for municipal budgets. The Municipalities of Saraj and Kicevo are also cooperating with the Macedonian Center for Energy Efficiency (MACEF) and TIMEL PROJECT Engineering to carry out the repair work.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$400 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 30 projects worth \$35 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and

humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit www.USAID.org.mk.